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Remarks

Claim 1 has been amended. The Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 1,214,709 to Orr in view of U.S. Patent No. 3,570,074 to Schimmeyer et al. Additionally, the Examiner has rejected claims 1 and 2 under U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Schimmeyer in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,136,755 to Shaw.

**A. Independent Claim 1**

Independent claim 1 has been amended herein to specify that the wire rope socket has a vent hole that is located below the internally threaded portion of the socket. The Specification of the present invention states that a vent hole may be used as an overflow below the threaded portion of the socket so that the socket will not be overfilled with babbitt. (Spec., p.3, lines 13-14) To establish *prima facie* obviousness of a claimed invention, all the claim limitations must be taught or suggested by the prior art. *In re Royka*, 490 F.2d 981, 180 USPQ 580 (CCPA 1974). "All words in a claim must be considered in judging the patentability of that claim against the prior art." *In re Wilson*, 424 F.2d 1382, 1385, 165 USPQ 494, 496 (CCPA 1970).

Orr does not teach or suggest a wire rope socket that is internally threaded (as acknowledged by the Examiner), nor does Orr teach or suggest a wire rope socket having a vent hole below the threaded portion of the socket. At best, Orr discloses "perforated ears" (element 13 in the figures) by which the structure may be bolted to a support. (Orr, lines 104-105) The perforated ears 13 of Orr, however, are not a vent hole, nor are they located below an internally threaded portion of a wire rope socket. Thus, Orr fails to teach or suggest a vent hole that is located below the internally threaded portion of a wire rope socket.

Shaw also does not teach or suggest a wire rope socket that is internally threaded (as acknowledged by the Examiner), nor does Shaw teach or suggest a wire rope socket having a

vent hole below the threaded portion of the socket. At best, Shaw discloses an aperture, element 26 in the figures, that is in the solid end portion of the sleeve, adapted to interconnect with a variety of cable end fittings having a pin type component. (Shaw, col. 7, lines 47-52) The aperture 26 of Shaw, however, is not a vent hole, nor is it located below an internally threaded portion of a wire rope socket. Thus, Shaw fails to teach or suggest a vent hole that is located below the internally threaded portion of a wire rope socket.

Schimmeyer fails to remedy the deficiencies of Orr and Shaw. First, Applicants do not concede that Schimmeyer teaches a wire rope socket that is internally threaded. The purpose of having an internally threaded wire rope socket, as described in the specification of the present invention, is so that swabbing tools may be attached to the wire rope socket with ease. (Spec., p. 3, line 4) Schimmeyer teaches that anchoring member 16 is internally threaded, but anchoring member 16 is not a wire rope socket into which a rope formed of strands of twisted wires extends, as required by the claims of the present invention. (Schimmeyer, col. 2, lines 34-39) Additionally, the engaging of pieces 14 and 16, which the Examiner states the socket comprises, precludes the attachment of swabbing tools to element 14 (in which the rope actually resides), as disclosed in the Specification. Thus, the benefit of having an internally threaded wire rope socket is not contained in the teachings of Schimmeyer. Second, Schimmeyer fails to teach or suggest a vent hole located below the internally threaded portion of a wire rope socket. There are no apertures or holes anywhere within element 14 (in which resin 25 resides) that may act as a vent hole, preventing overflow. Thus, Schimmeyer fails to remedy the deficiencies of Orr and Shaw, and as such, the combination of Schimmeyer and Orr and the combination of Schimmeyer and Shaw fail to teach or suggest all of the claim limitations. A prima facie case of obviousness has not been established with either combination, and so claim 1 is not obvious over either of

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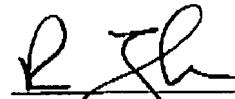
these combinations. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 1 be withdrawn and that claim 1 be passed to issuance.

If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious. In re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed. Cir. 1988). Dependent claim 2 is nonobvious because it depends from claim 1. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claim 2 be withdrawn and that claim 2 be passed to issuance.

Conclusion

Applicant respectfully submits that pending claims 1 and 2 of the present invention are allowable. Applicant respectfully requests that these claims be passed to issuance.

Respectfully submitted,



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